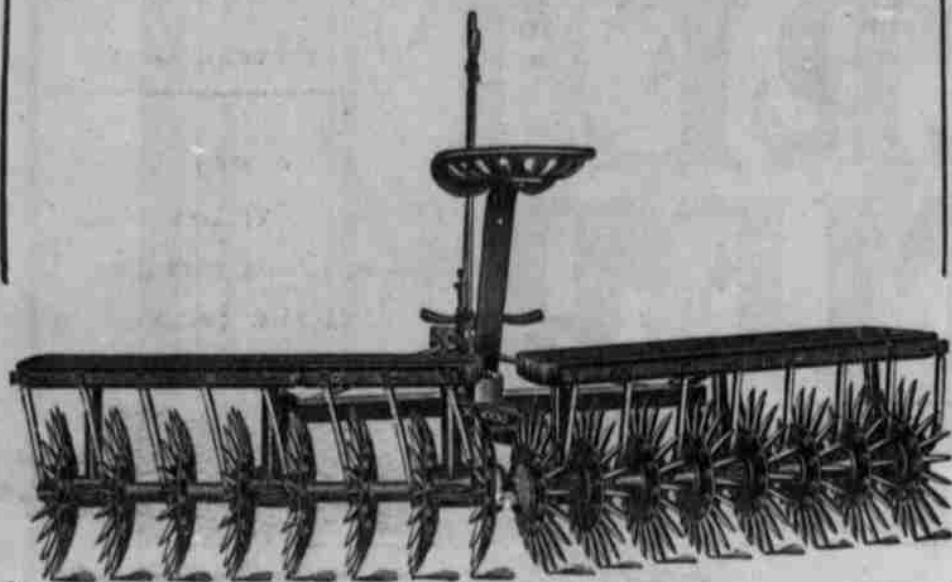


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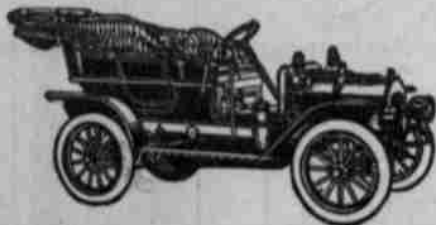
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IDAHO--Gem State

Among what may be designated as the newer states, none is attracting as much attention as Idaho. It is the scent of greater development and more rapid settlement than are met with in any other. The state has varied resources and a delightful climate, and the conditions are all such that it is very attractive, both to homeseekers and to investors.

Though Idaho is in the latitude of Canada, it enjoys a mild climate. The influence of the currents of the Pacific is felt, the temperature being moderate, however, without any of the excessive dampness that characterizes the western coast regions. Those familiar with the climate of the northern portion of the United States, between the Rocky Mountains and the Great Lakes, are always surprised when they learn of the mildness of the weather of Idaho. The Dakotas, Montana and Minnesota, in the same latitude, experience long and bitter winters, and people from those states visiting Idaho in the winter season are astonished to find the weather mild.

At the greater altitudes there is more cold and much snow, but on the great Snake River plain, the seat of the main portion of the agricultural industry, there is little snow excepting in the upper valley, nearer the headwaters of the stream.

This river and its mighty valley reach across the state from east to west, some 350 miles. In the eastern portion the winters are sharp, and the products of the soil are much the same as those of the Dakotas. The altitude of the vast agricultural areas is from 5,000 to 7,000 feet. The land produces from 40 to 60 bushels of wheat to the acre, 100 bushels of oats, 500 bushels of potatoes, from 10 to 30 tons of sugar beets, and six tons of alfalfa hay.

In the western section, with a general altitude of 2500 feet, wheat, corn, oats, barley, alfalfa, timothy and clover, grow luxuriantly, the yield running as high as in the upper valley. Potatoes yield from 400 to 600 bushels to the acre. Sugar beets do a little better than in the latter section and the industry is even more profitable.

In addition, this western section is remarkable for its fruit production.

Its apples and prunes are unequalled, while pears, peaches and plums, and all other temperate zone fruits, do unusually well. The climate has much to do with the success of the fruit grower, as there is almost continuous sunshine during the period of development of the crop. Before passing from this subject of climate the following meteorological data may be given. These are from the records of the United States weather bureau at Boise, the capital, in the western part of the state. They are for two years, 1905 and 1906. Those for 1907 have not been completed at the date of this writing, but they will make an even better showing:

	1905.	1906.
Precipitation (inches).....	8.62	14.23
Number of days sunshine.....	324	321
Percentage of possible sunshine	82	61
Mean temperature	50.8	51.5
Highest temperature	103	102
Lowest temperature	2	5
Average wind movement per hour (miles)	5	5.8

The cold weather comes in two or three spells, which, in the Boise Valley particularly, are characterized by lack of wind, of which there is never much, as disclosed by the record. Through the absence of moisture in the atmosphere, the relative degree of cold is much milder than shown by the mercury, the sensible temperature ranging from 10 to 25 degrees above the record of the thermometer.

It will be seen from these figures that the state has a climate combining all features that contribute to healthfulness. The rainfall is light, and practically all comes in the late fall, the winter, and early spring. Late spring, summer, and early fall are practically without rain, the farmer relying upon his irrigation ditches to supply moisture to the soil—a method that is always under his control, making drouth impossible. There is enough winter to give the change that is needed by most persons, without the boisterousness that characterizes the winter in other sections of the same or lesser altitude. It is an ideal climate, and is constantly compared with that of Florence and some other points in Italy.

Idaho, industrially, is an empire within itself. It has been said that, were the state shut off from all other sources of supply, it could fully develop all the great industries from its